(b) and (c) No. Sir. The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) provides for compulsory use of jute in packaging of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and sute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof, and for matters connected therewith. The Act empowers the Union Government to direct from time to time that such commodity or class of commodities or such percentage thereof, as may be specified shall be packed for the purposes of its suppy or distribution in such jute packgaing material as may be specified.

The Government issues orders from time to time, generally in each jute year, after considering various factors like production of raw jute, production of foodgrains and sugar, interest of workers engaged in jute agriculture and jute industry and the consumers. At present there is no proposal to repeal the JPM Act, 1987.

Export of Indian Textiles and finished apparels

4081. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the volume of exports of Indian textiles and finished apparels during each quarter of last year and the export targets during the year 2002;

(b) whether there is apprehension of a major crisis in the Indian textile industry in the near future due to threats from textile exports from Bangladesh and China;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of measures proposed to be taken to meet the global challenges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : (a) The exports of Indian textiles and finished apparels during each quarter of 2000-2001 are given below :—

Quarter	Value (in US$ Million)
Apr. 2000—Jun. 2000	3126.3
Jul. 2000—Sep. 2000	2965.2
Oct. 2000—Dec. 2000	2694.3
Jan. 2001—Mar. 2001	3311.6
TOTAL	**12097.4**

Source : DGCI&S (Provisional)

A target of US$ 13,718 million has been fixed for export of textile products during the year 2001-2002

(b) and (c) With the phasing out of MFA and preferential trading arrangements entered into by some countries, the textile trade in international arena will enter into a phase of fierce competition. Further, with removal of Quantitative Restrictions on imports and lowering of tariffs, competition in the domestic market, especially from countries making competitive products will increase.

(d) The Government is fully committed to face the challenges of globalisation by encouraging investments for modernisation and upgradation of textile industry.

The National Textile Policy-2000 (NTxP-2000), provides an enabling environment to make the domestic textile industry strong enough to face growing global competition. De-reservation of the woven segment of readymade garment sector will allow the industry to achieve desired economies of scale. In order to implement the vision of the NTxP-2000, a "Textile Package" was announced in the Budget 2001-2002 to encourage investment in the textile sector. Some of the important provisions of the "Textile Package" are :—

(i) Customs duty has been reduced from 15% to 5% on 159 specified textile and garment machineries. In addition, 12 important items of machineries including shuttleless looms have also been exempted from additional excise duty. A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(ii) Assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) providing for a reimbursement of 5% out of interest, is available to the textile industry for modernisation and upgradation. In addition, rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.

(iii) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for the establishment of Apparel Parks for production and export of garments. Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme of improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

In addition, a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) with an outlay of about Rs. 600 crores has been launched by the Government to improve the productivity and quality of cotton required by the textile industry.